

2 Peter - Week 3

Spiritual Growth Brings Results

2 Peter 1:5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; 6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; 7 and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. They will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, 9 But if anyone does not have them, he is nearsighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins. 10 Therefore, my brothers, be all the more eager to make your calling and election sure. For if you do these things, you will never fall, 11 and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. NIV

- We are never **finished** with doing or being what God desires to accomplish in our lives.
- The job of reflecting Christ to the world is not a job well done, it's a continuing **transformation** of one's life.
- Verse 8 points to an **ongoing**, never finished aspect of the transformation of our surrender and service to God.

How can I be effective today?

- To make that determination we must access honestly whether the **characteristics** Peter talked about are present and **growing** in a positive way in our lives.
- **Complacency** is one of Satan's greatest weapons against the Kingdom of God.
- Short-sighted people cannot see in the **distance**.

Mathew Henry: "It requires a great deal of diligence and labor to make sure our calling and election; there must be a very close examination of ourselves."

- We must fill our minds with **gratitude** and praise if we are ever going to get the junk in our minds under God's control.
- Peter gives a word of challenge and **encouragement**.
- Satan and **selfishness** lead to indifference and sin.
- **Faith** is the beginning point of transformation.
- **Goodness** speaks of not just an honorable quality of life but allowing the goodness of God to live in and through us.
- Knowledge concentrates on a **practical** knowledge that is lived out.

- Perseverance literally means to walk under the **load**. It's the ability to deal with the circumstances of life.
- **Godliness** really just means having a **reverence** and obedience to the truths God has given us.
- **Brotherly Kindness** does not just love other believers and those without Christ. It means to be willing to bear each others **burdens**.
- **Love** is the agape, **unconditional** love God has for us that we reveal to others. It really means a deliberate desire for the highest good of the person we say we love.
- **Self-control** is the inner strength to control one's **desires** and cravings. The big "**I**" does not want to die easily. Self-control can't really happen until **God-control** is implemented in our lives.

Final thoughts:

1. Make a list of the positive **changes** God want to accomplish in your life.
2. Be confident in the **presence** and power of the Spirit of God to accomplish these changes. Take the words "I can't" or "I won't" out of your mind's vocabulary.
3. Ask the Spirit of God to reveal the things our culture says is **ok** that must be removed from my life.
4. Ask God for the **grace** to accomplish the changes He desires in your life.
5. Remember, we are a children of God and He is not done with us yet. Return to a position of **praise** to our Father.